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M I N U T E S

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

7 - 12 March 1988

Meeting held in

Istanbul, Turkey

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FOREWORD

The Executive Committee was hosted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate represented in particular through His Eminence Chrysostomos, Metropolitan of Myra. On Sunday 13 March members attended the Holy Liturgy in the presence of His All Holiness Dimitrios I, the Ecumenical Patriarch; on Thursday 10 March a visit was arranged to Heybeliada (Halki) to the Holy Divinity Monastery where the Theological School of the Patriarchate is located; and on Tuesday 8 March H.E. Chrysostomos hosted a Reception at the Pera Palace Hotel.

Several WCC member churches are represented in Turkey, and through the Ecumenical Clergy Group in Istanbul arrangements were made for members of the Executive Committee and staff to attend a number of events during their stay: on Sunday 6 March visits were arranged to several local congregations, followed in the evening by attendance at the Vesper Service at the Syrian Orthodox Church together with representatives of other Christian communities in Istanbul. This was followed by a reception.

On Wednesday 9 March, the Committee and staff attended Vespers at the Armenian Cathedral in Istanbul celebrated by Patriarch Schnork. This was also followed by a reception.

On Thursday 10 March the Executive Committee hosted an informal reception for members of the Ecumenical Clergy Group; on Saturday 12 March representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate were invited to an informal dinner with Executive Committee members and staff at Tarabya.

The meetings took place at the Roman Catholic Church of St Antoine on the kind and generous invitation of Father Alfonso and members of his parish.

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Istanbul, Turkey
7-12 March 1988

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Worship

Opening worship on Monday 7 March was led by the Moderator, Dr Held, and on subsequent days by Dr Lois Wilson, Metropolitan Chrysostomos, Ms Joyce Kaddu and Mr Per Voksoe.

B. Opening session

The meeting convened at 9.00 hrs at the Church of St Antoine, Istanbul. At the official opening session, the Executive Committee was welcomed to Istanbul by Metropolitan Bartolomeus of Philadelphia on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarch, His All Holiness Dimitrios, and by Revd Melvin Wittler on behalf of the Ecumenical Clergy Group. Other guests included Bishop Mesrob Mutafyan of the Armenian Patriarchate, and Fr Alfonso, priest of St Antoine. The Moderator welcomed all visitors to the session.

C. Roll call

The General Secretary introduced participants (Appendix I) and presented apologies from Patriarch Ignatios IV, Dame Nita Barrow, Mr Harry Ashmall, and Dr Janice Love.

Dr Wilson proposed that a letter of congratulation be sent to Dr Love on the birth of her daughter.

The Rt Revd Dr Soritua A. E. Nababan was congratulated on his appointment as Ephorus of his Church, the Batak Protestant Christian Church, Indonesia.

D. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Atlanta, 21-25 September 1987, having been previously circulated, were confirmed, with the following corrections:

- Dr Wilson referred to the mention of the use of inclusive language in worship (Minutes p.24 - regarding plans for Central Committee): she wished to add that attention should be given to the visibility of women in worship. The Officers were asked to look further at this matter and propose a more helpful pattern.

- Archbishop Makhulu asked that his intervention with regard to the Special Fund of PCR should refer to "divisions within South Africa and Namibia" (Minutes p.24).

E. Adoption of agenda and timetable

The General Secretary presented a revised agenda and timetable, which were adopted.

2. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON FINANCES

Dr McCloud presented the preliminary report on Finances as follows:

1987 outcome

Members of the Executive Committee would recall that the 1987 budget had been prepared on the basis of an anticipated US$/Sfr average exchange rate for the year of Sfr 1.90 to a dollar.

The dollar continued to see its value drop against all major foreign currencies during 1987 and ended the year at the all time low of Sfr 1.28 to a dollar. Both the Executive and the Central Committee took precautionary measures by limiting the authorized expenditure level of many sub-units to 95% of the approved budget. It had also been agreed that sub-units would not be authorised to draw down more than one third of their fund balances to cover a possible shortfall of current income vs. their current expenditure.

The results of the year show that most sub-units stayed within (sometimes well within) the authorised expenditure levels.

Globally, the WCC will have ended 1987 in a better financial position than had been feared in September 1987, in spite of the continued spectacular fall of the US dollar. This was due to a sizeable underspending of over 2.5 million Swiss francs or 6% below the authorised expenditure level (itself approximately 4% below the approved budget level), and also to a better than anticipated level of income due to the efforts of OICD and of directors of several sub-units, especially CICARWS.

Nevertheless it was a matter of concern that the WCC has needed to draw down on its fund balances and on those of some of the sub-units in 1987 to the level of more than 1.5 million Swiss francs. For the first time since 1980 the WCC will therefore have spent more than its income of the year. (above figures unaudited).

1988

At its meeting of 17 February, the Investment Advisory Group felt that the dollar might strengthen slightly during the next few months but was unlikely to appreciate dramatically since there would need to be a fundamental change in trade figures before there could be any sustained upward pressure on the dollar. In that event any upward movement might tempt central banks to unload surplus dollars accumulated during the support operations during the last quarter of 1987. The range of the dollar in 1988 was suggested to be Sfr 1.25 - Sfr 1.55 with an average rate of Sfr 1.40.

A review of the 1988 budget would be undertaken by the Finance Sub-committee to see what measures should be taken in view of the anticipated expenses and income of the year. It appeared that undesignated income will be equivalent to the 1987 level, while designated programme income is expected to drop by a little over 1%. This stability indicated that giving continued to increase and would almost fully compensate for the US dollar decline. However, receipts would not compensate for Swiss inflation in 1988.

Other matters

The Sub-committee would consider a preliminary 1989 budget, the preliminary budgets for the JPIC World Convocation and for the Seventh Assembly, and the possibility of establishing an Ecumenical Decade Fund. It would also consider what action, if any, is required in the area of our banking relationships following the adoption of additional criteria a year ago.

Finally, a number of financial policy issues would be discussed and the Sub-committee would receive information on the plans for the next Finance Consultation to be held in 1989.

A full report on all these matters would be presented to the Executive Committee later in the meeting, as usual.

3. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary began by paying tribute to the following ecumenical leaders who had died since the last meeting of the Executive Committee: Prof. Gerassimos Konidaris from Greece, a member of Central Committee and delegate to all assemblies of the World Council since Amsterdam; Dr Joseph Sittler, US theologian, who presented a major address at the New Delhi Assembly and was related in particular to Church and Society in the 1960s; Dr Charles Ranson, US, General Secretary of the International Missionary Council and first director of the Theological Education Fund in 1958 (now the Programme on Theological Education); Ms Chris Cowap, staff member of NCCCUSA Church and Society Department, deeply dedicated to justice for women.

The most important ecumenical occasion in the period since the last Executive Committee was the visit to the WCC headquarters of His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch, Dimitrios I, who had reiterated the full support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Orthodox family to the vocation and ongoing work of the WCC, and invited the Roman Catholic Church to find its place in the whole life of the WCC.

The General Secretary then mentioned the recent visit of two secretaries of state in charge of religious affairs: Mr Klaus Gysi from the German Democratic Republic, and Mr Dragan Dragojlovic from the Republic of Serbia, Yugoslavia. These occasions provided an opportunity to enter into dialogue on the situations of the countries concerned as well as a point for possible future reference.

The General Secretary drew attention to the list of sub-unit activities which had been circulated, and said that questions would be welcomed. He would not refer to these activities in his report, as he wished to reflect on the celebration of the WCC's 40th anniversary with a consideration of achievements and failures during the past 40 years.

In referring to areas which in his view could be termed failures, the General Secretary mentioned the following:

1. We have not been able to overcome the internal cleavage between denominations which are ecumenically-minded and those which are more confessionally minded.

2. We have found it difficult to relate to the smaller churches, as well as to Pentecostal and Independent churches which have a charistmatic leadership: we have not paid sufficient attention to the emergence of new churches in third world countries. Most of the new churches which do join are branches of already existing member churches.

3. We are not able to respond coherently to the total mission of local churches. Different WCC programmes have different points of entry into the life and mission of local churches but we are not equipped to maintain a continuous overall relationship.

4. We seem to have lost the passion for church unity and the average church member has less enthusiasm for things ecumenical. As we come to know each other better and in many ways grow closer to one another, the division at the Lord's table becomes ever more acute. We have not been able to explore fully the potentials for practical progress towards church unity.

5. We have not managed to overcome the problem of communication with the ordinary people within the churches. We too often give the impression that we are an elitist group taking radical positions that are not understood by church members; this is due in part to limitations of our communications system.

With regard to achievements, the General Secretary cited the following:

1. While the WCC itself is the result of previous work by many other bodies in the ecumenical field, the 40 years of WCC activity has brought an awareness into the internal life of the churches of their ecumenical responsibilities and vocation. This is manifested in the increase of national and local councils of churches, of regional ecumenical organisations, bilateral dialogues and so on. But the radical change in relations and attitudes among churches is something new. Theology is done in a convergence perspective, while ecumenism has become a feature in the life of the churches.

2. The growing emphasis on World Council of Churches - all Orthodox churches are members; some African independent churches, and some Pentecostal churches from Latin America are now members; there is a greater recognition of the diverse cultural faces of the church. Although the reality of being a World Council is not yet total, our agenda is seen to have become third world oriented and thus indicates the perception of the world character of our movement.

3. Churches from the most diverse social, political and ideological contexts come together in the WCC: it is a miracle that the World Council has been able to address specifics and facilitate the discussion of polemical issues, able to face situations of conflict without breaking the solidarity and koinonia of the whole family.

4. The WCC has become a forum for the global consideration or the internationalization of local issues: churches bring their missionary challenges here, seeking international Christian solidarity.

5. The WCC has been an intellectual theological and spiritual fermentation in the life of the churches. The long tradition of searching for Christian obedience in social ethics has brought us to the current discussion of JPIC, while the theological significance of the poor remains a clear ecumenical challenge; the BEM discussion is the fruit of long years of wrestling with the fundamental challenges of Christian doctrine.

The General Secretary concluded by reflecting that perhaps lately we have lost intellectual initiative and the fermentation role of the WCC in relation to the churches is assured in other less conceptual ways. The Vancouver emphasis on worship and the growing demand for participation of women and youth are maintaining the challenge to the churches just as much as in the past but in different historical contexts. It may be that we are victims of a dichotomy between action and reflection that needs to be addressed - especially as present demands are for intellectual leadership in fields such as bioethics - while the values and limitations of participatory methodology, the use of guidelines for reflection, etc. need to be reassessed. In any case, the interaction between the WCC and most of its member churches is always fermenting, provoking and stimulating.

4. SMALL GROUPS

At the following session, members and staff met in small groups to exchange information and views, focusing on the report of the General Secretary.

5. DISCUSSION OF GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The next session provided opportunity for discussion of the General Secretary's report in plenary, and warm appreciation for the report was expressed by all who spoke. Contributions and comments included the following:

Dr Tolen felt that the structure of the WCC and its division into units did not help the churches in their approach to unity. The compartmentalisation helps create divisions locally rather than giving an overall view. He urged that staff visiting churches in a given area or country should be able to respond to questions raised on matters of local concern and not just with regard to their own programme. He also asked that materials and documents from WCC be written with more understanding of the needs of people of different regions and cultures who are not always able to follow the complicated texts on a wide variety of subjects.

Archbishop Makhulu referred to a situation in Botswana where an ecumenical church was started but has not been able to relate well to other local churches. He asked how Faith and Order could be of service to local communities in their attempts at unity.

Mr Voksoe said that although local churches know little about the WCC, their concept of unity and their perspectives towards other Christians have changed due to the ecumenical movement. He felt the greatest difference between the WCC in 1948 and now was that, while the leadership then was firmly in the northern hemisphere, now this is no longer the case.

Archbishop Kirill wished to add a point to the list of failures: he felt that one of the greatest problems today is the loss of enthusiasm, the loss of a vision of the one church. In the ecumenical movement we have become so accustomed to being divided that we no longer see the divisions. He urged that this question be faced seriously, as a negative attitude towards ecumenism was increasing in some churches. Although certain theological developments had brought the churches closer together, others seemed to divide us even further. On the positive side he spoke of his recent participation in the UN Commission on Human Rights as a member of the Russian delegation: each country's delegation is separate, isolated; he compared this to the WCC fellowship - we have become a community because of our Christian solidarity and thus we have a unique means not only of achieving church unity but of building up mutual understanding and creating community.

Bishop Hempel asked how impulses from the WCC can be brought into local situations.

Dr Wilson suggested that more initiative should be taken first at local and national levels with regard to churches still outside the WCC fellowship before the WCC can move further. Regarding the relationship of member churches to the WCC, she felt that team visits had been one of the best ways of bringing home the reality of the ecumenical movement to local people. Although there was less passion regarding church unity, it was expressed in different forms; JPIC and the Ecumenical Decade - Churches in Solidarity with Women would contribute to healing some of the divisions.

Metropolitan Gregorios noted that problems existed not only in the two-thirds world but also in the first world which needed the help of the Christian community. He felt that the special situation of churches in the second world should be given more adequate consideration and understanding. On the question of staff balances, Metropolitan Gregorios was of the opinion that the WCC was ahead of many other bodies in assuring a better balance of participation of women and of the two-thirds world. He expressed concern that in looking for overall balances it was essential to keep the level of competence high also. We cannot build up the unity of the church in the world without taking into account the cultures in which the churches have to function; the religious/secular distinction must be kept in mind in future discussions.

Metropolitan Antonie asked why there was less apparent enthusiasm for unity nowadays than at the time of the formation of the Council. He felt that without appropriate theological preparation unity would remain a dream.

The General Secretary responded briefly to the points made.

The Executive Committee <u>received</u> the report of the General Secretary.

<u>Sub-unit activities</u>

At a later session there was a discussion on points raised in relation to the written reports on sub-unit activities. In response to a question on the situation regarding the reception

process of the texts on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry (BEM), Dr Gassmann said that a full report would be ready for the Faith and Order Plenary Commission meeting in 1989; meanwhile several volumes of responses to BEM received from the churches so far had been published, and the churches were being kept informed of the process.

With regard to the action of the Executive Committee at Atlanta agreeing to the formation of a joint CWME/LCWE (Lausanne Continuation Committee for World Evangelization)/WEF (World Evangelical Fellowship) to look at models of evangelization, Dr Stockwell explained that no action had yet been taken as a decision on the matter was still awaited from LCWE, while WEF had not accepted the proposal.

6. RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WCC/US BLACK CHURCH DIALOGUE

Prior to its meeting in Atlanta GA, USA in September 1987, the Executive Committee had met with representatives of historic Black Churches in the USA to discuss ways of strengthening relationships. In response to the proposals developed by the US Black Churches, the General Secretary and staff had formulated a response which was presented to this meeting of the Executive Committee as an indication of the commitment to maintain the dialogue and translate that commitment into action.

Emphasis was given to the vital role played by the Black Churches in the development of the ecumenical movement and stress laid on the importance of facilitating communication and supporting greater involvement of the Black churches in the life and work of the WCC. Expressions of commitment by the Black Churches to take a more active role in supporting the work of the WCC were welcomed, as was the creation of a Liaison/Auxiliary Committee to include representatives of the Black Churches. Emphasis was laid on the need to improve channels of information and communication, and on increasing Black Church participation in the various areas of WCC work as well as in the wider ecumenical network.

The General Secretary introduced the document noting that it was for discussion and comment rather than for decision.

Archbishop Kirill pointed out that the idea of a dialogue with Black Churches was first raised in 1976 after the Nairobi Assembly. He was still in favour of developing a theological dialogue between Orthodox Churches and Third World churches including the US Black Churches. On the other hand, he hoped that the need for greater participation in the life of the WCC by the Orthodox Churches could be emphasised and described as clearly as the proposals in this paper.

Dr McCloud asked for clarification on the status of the paper: since the dialogue with Black Churches had been with the Executive Committee, he asked why this was a staff response. The formation of a Liaison Committee was seen as significant; its membership includes representatives of the historic Black Churches, and they are asking for two members of the Executive Committee to be associated with them in order to continue the dialogue started in

Atlanta. Dr Talbot spoke as a member of a Black Church and urged that a way be found to help the leaders of the Black Churches believe the WCC is serious in facilitating their participation in WCC life and work.

The document was passed to the Programme Sub-committee. At a later session, Dr Talbot introduced the report of the Sub-committee, which was accepted as follows:

> The Executive Committee recommends that the WCC response to the WCC/Black Church Dialogue be received with appreciation. It requested that the General Secretary write a letter to the newly formed Liaison Committee of the Black Churches in USA indicating:
>
> a) action of the Executive Committee to affirm the staff document;
>
> b) appreciation for the dialogue and the intention to continue this dialogue as requested by the Black Churches within the fellowship of the WCC;
>
> c) commitment of staff and Executive Committee to follow through on the specific actions noted;
>
> d) the intention of WCC to work with the Black Churches in USA to increase their participation in WCC;
>
> e) a challenge to the Black Churches to encourage the full participation of persons now involved in the life of WCC and to increase the sharing of resources with the WCC.

In discussion it was decided that the letter from the General Secretary be sent to leaders of the Black Churches and to all members of the Liaison Committee.

Dr McCloud proposed that two presidents be designated to serve as liaison persons, acting as a link between the Liaison Committee of the Black Churches and the WCC Executive Committee. Dr Nababan said that normally staff related to the churches and asked why this should be seen as a special case. Dr McCloud emphasised that it was the Executive Committee in the first place which had the dialogue with the Black Churches and this was a way of expressing commitment to continuing the dialogue.

Ms Campbell explained that if two persons were so designated, they would be invited to meetings of the Liaison Committee of the Black Church twice a year, probably for the period until the Assembly.

Dr Talbot noted that during the 40 years of the Council's life it had continued to increase the number of its member churches, and suggested that in the next period it was important to find ways to cultivate our members so that they can be more actively involved in the life and ministry of the WCC. This proposal was a way of having personal contact with a group of churches and she felt it was important to try this methodology, which would perhaps in due

time become a model for closer working relationships with other communions. Dr Nababan felt it was important to be fair to member churches all round the world and said that churches in his country would be helped by visits from members of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee agreed (Dr Nababan voting against and with two abstentions) that two Presidents, Dame Nita Barrow and Dr Lois Wilson, be designated to serve as liaison persons with the Black Churches through the Liaison Committee.

7. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONS

Prof. Sabev presented a revised text of a background paper on relations and collaboration between the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church prepared with a view to a full discussion at the next meeting of Central Committee. In this connection he referred also to the response of the Roman Catholic Church to the World Council's invitation to be co-inviter of the World Convocation on JPIC, which they had felt unable to accept due to the different nature of the two bodies. Taking up this point, and also recalling the public expression by the Ecumenical Patriarch during his visit to Geneva in December 1987 of his expectation that the RCC find a place within the fellowship of the WCC, the General Secretary had asked that further discussion take place through the Joint Working Group on the whole question of closer mutual relationships.

Metropolitan Gregorios remarked that the RCC had twice responded negatively to earlier discussions about their possible membership in the WCC and felt it preferable not to press this issue at the present time.

Prof. Sabev emphasised the desire of the Roman Catholic Church nevertheless to cooperate closely in preparations for the World Convocation on JPIC.

Questions were asked with reference to a paper discussed at the June 1987 meeting of the Consultative Group on Social Thought and Action (CGS) with regard to the biblical foundation for rejection of any discrimination or oppressive system based on race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, on which there had been substantive agreement. Why had this document been set aside, not published, and even not shared with the constituencies? The General Secretary said it was felt that further work needed to be done on the paper before it was distributed more widely.

At a later session Dr Nababan reported on behalf of the Programme Sub-committee, which recommended:

1. that in the Introduction, the nature and the purpose of the paper be stated more clearly: this is a staff assessment of WCC/RCC relationships, a progress report for information, further study and reflection, but should not be considered as a position paper of the WCC. It is meant both to inform WCC member churches and to elicit information from the churches on their experience;

2. that the introductory paragraph of the section on divergences and obstacles with regard to theological, ethical, socio-political and structural issues, be expanded to express the same spirit and intention of the information given and assessment made concerning these divergences on various issues.

3. that some passages in this section that may give the impression that the WCC is aiming at a certain judgement on the faith and practices of a non-member church be reviewed, in order to make clear that we are referring only to common issues encountered by member churches in their dialogue and collaboration with the RCC, issues which we could profitably discuss among ourselves;

4. that more information be provided on the circumstances in which a document on race questions discussed by the CGS in June 1987 was "set aside";

5. that doctrinal issues which are controversial within the fellowship of the WCC, such as the "Hierarchy of Truths", be dealt with in a way that avoids the impression that these are unanimously accepted doctrines and approaches within the fellowship of the WCC;

6. that the issue of proselytism be treated at greater length (if not in this paper then within the mandate and study documents of the JWG), calling attention to previous accords and continuing points of concern;

7. that the paragraphs relating to RCC membership in the WCC be moved to the section on possibilities and restraints for collaboration in the light of the different nature of the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church;

8. that a concluding paragraph be added to give the whole document a more optimistic tone, which actually prevails in this paper;

9. that the paper be then sent to members of Central Committee and to the WCC member churches for information, study and comments;

10. that the document, with a resumé of responses received up to that point, be put to the Committee on the General Secretariat at the Hanover Central Committee meeting, to suggest decisions or recommendations.

The Executive Committee agreed to these recommendations.

8. SEVENTH ASSEMBLY

A. Theme and Style

Dr Avery Post, moderator of the Assembly Planning Committee (APC), present as a Consultant, reported that the first APC meeting held in December 1987 had been a fruitful one. With regard to a possible Assembly theme, discussions had led the Committee to see the power and promise in a spirit-related theme and the possibilities this would provide for an inclusiveness which, though not easy to achieve, would move us forward in our ecumenical relationship between spirituality and justice. A recommendation would be brought to the meeting in August.

Emphasis was laid on the need for a working style that will enable delegates to work together and make clear decisions for the next stage of the Council's work after 1991. Simplicity in style and structure is paramount. The Assembly is seen as a celebratory and liberating event, centred in worship, with sufficient flexibility to address world issues. The quality of preparation of delegates is critical for the success of the Assembly, and ways must be sought to engage the churches in studying the theme and issues beforehand.

Ms Skuse said that preparations in Australia were well under way. A National Committee had been formed headed by Mr John Denton, General Secretary of the Anglican Church in Australia; there was also a local Committee in Canberra moderated by Bishop Owen Dowling. Non-member churches were also represented on these committees. She herself would be working full-time on Australian preparations from May 1988.

At a later session, Dr Nababan reported on behalf of the Programme Sub-committee.

> The Executive Committee received with gratitude the report presented by the Moderator of the APC and made a number of helpful comments which will be shared with the next meeting of the APC. The following points were noted:
>
> a) The need for adequate time for the business of the Assembly, and for clarity in decision-making;
>
> b) The critical importance of the theme, which should
>
> i) relate to the practical life of the churches;
>
> ii) call the churches to listen to the Spirit;
>
> iii) be a challenge to renewal and mission;
>
> iv) make clear the trinitarian and Christological context of a Spirit-centred theme.
>
> c) The educational role of the Assembly;
>
> d) The prophetic role of an Assembly being held towards the close of the second millennium;

e) Bible study should be related to the theme and sub-themes;

f) The Assembly should clearly address and speak to the question of truth, unity and renewal of life.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

B. Allocation of seats

Rev. W. Perkins introduced a draft paper to be sent after approval or amendment by the Executive Committee to the member churches and Central Committee for comment. Revised proposals would be presented to Central Committee in August. The proposed allocation of seats was based on the membership statistics available, which would be corrected as necessary.

The basic Vancouver seat allocation pattern, which had proved generally acceptable, had been retained. Special attention had been given to Orthodox, Anglican and Methodist churches which, while having their headquarters or main see in one country, include in their membership local churches which are not independent in other countries or regions. Special criteria had been developed to ensure that the total membership of these churches was adequately represented. The special importance of United churches had also been taken into account, and additional delegates allocated to united churches which would have less delegates than before union or at Vancouver.

The document was referred to the Sub-committee on Nominations. At a later session, Dr Talbot reported on the Sub-committee's recommendations:

> The Sub-committee recommends that the document on Allocation of Seats at the Seventh Assembly be circulated to the heads of all member churches and Central Committee members with the following clarifications and comments to be included in the revised text or the covering letter from the General Secretary:
>
> 1. The provisional character of the document should be emphasized. It will be revised before action by Central Committee in August on the basis of comments, corrections and proposals made by the churches.
>
> 2. The churches should be asked to send corrections if the statistics do not accurately reflect the number of their baptized members, or in the case of churches which count only adult communicants, twice the number of their communicant members. If new statistics were to change the membership range in which the church falls, the number of delegates would also change.
>
> 3. Responses should be received by 1 June 1988.
>
> 4. The Orthodox, Methodist and Anglican churches which have been allocated seats based on regional membership should receive special letters interpreting the proposals.
>
> 5. Special mention should be made of the need to include disabled persons in church delegations.

6. The appendix should list member churches with their membership figures, indicating the total number of delegates per church compared with Vancouver.

7. The Orthodox churches are invited to consult together regarding the distribution of seats to the various churches, keeping in mind the regional representation, and propose modifications of the allocations - within the total number of Orthodox delegates - which would achieve better balance among their churches.

8. With regard to the section on united churches, the first proposal refers to any churches which may unite between assemblies; the second proposal refers only to "united and uniting churches" as understood by Faith and Order: those which are the result of inter-confessional unions.

In discussion a number of points were raised. Dr McCloud felt it was not helpful to use the Faith and Order definition of "united churches". No distinction should be made between churches which unite within one confession and those which unite across confessional boundaries.

He further proposed that figures relating to Canberra not be included in the paper sent to member churches at this point; it was important to correct the membership statistics first. The Committee agreed, however, that it was necessary to include the proposed figures while making clear that these were only provisional until approved by Central Committee in August.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendations of the Sub-committee.

9. JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Dr Niles referred to the consultation on the Integrity of Creation which had taken place in Granvollen, Norway, at the beginning of March 1988. Metropolitan Gregorios had acted as moderator and he reported on this attempt to clarify what is meant by "integrity of creation".

Dr Niles spoke of the development of JPIC world-wide and said that although a great deal is happening in all parts of the world on the whole commitment to JPIC, there still remains much to be done in moving the process forward.

Dr Niles presented a proposal for action by the Executive Committee with regard to the Preparatory Group for the World Convocation. Since the Roman Catholic Church has declined the invitation to be a co-inviter, it was not necessary to create a new body to plan and call the convocation. One of the mandates given to the JPIC Advisory Group appointed by the Executive Committee at Kinshasa (1986) was that the Group "assist in the planning and preparation of the world conference on JPIC". It was therefore proposed that the Advisory Group be asked to act as the Preparatory Group for the World Convocation.

Dr Bührig expressed concern at the short time remaining to prepare the World Convocation. Mr Voksoe asked how the churches would be be involved in the theological affirmation and the act of commitment to JPIC, and whether delegates to the convocation would be able to speak on behalf of the churches. He expressed concern that the Advisory Committee had not been appointed with the planning of a world meeting in mind and felt that different expertise was required for the Preparatory Group membership.

Dr Tolen expressed concern about the wide gap that exists between the problems that need to be addressed on the local level, especially in promoting justice in the life of the church and in society, and in the kind of achievement that may be attempted at a world conference. He felt that there was too much time pressure and asked that the timetable be reconsidered.

Bishop Hempel asked that at the Hanover meeting some advice be provided as to how the question of power can be dealt with in the conciliar process. Dr Wilson asked if there were plans for monitoring the JPIC process following the world convocation, and stressed the importance of careful follow-up.

Bishop Athanasios felt that without real commitment to JPIC it was not helpful simply to talk about it. He urged that more care be given to the integrity of the Christian family.

Dr Niles responded to the points raised and said that the convocation was by no means to be seen as the culmination of a process, but rather as a call to the churches to speak out, however partially, however brokenly. The process of reception would follow the convocation.

The matter was taken up by the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Dr Nababan presented the report of the Programme Sub-committee. After further discussion, the Executive Committee adopted the following:

> Preparatory Group for the World Convocation
> The proposal to have an ad hoc body to plan and call the World Convocation on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation was made in the hope that the Roman Catholic Church would accept the Central Committee (Geneva 1987) invitation to be a co-inviter with the WCC for the World Convocation. If that invitation had been accepted, there would have been need to have a group of eminent church persons representing the cooperating bodies, with the status and authority to convoke the world meeting on justice, peace and the integrity of creation.
>
> Since the Roman Catholic Church has declined the invitation to be a co-inviter, the need to create a new body to plan and call the convocation does not arise.
>
> One of the mandates given to the JPIC Advisory Group appointed at the Kinshasa Executive Committee (1986) is that it "assist in the planning and preparation of the world conference on JPIC". However, it will be necessary to review the membership of the group taking into account the further areas of competence that will be needed if it is to function as the preparatory group for the World Convocation.

Collaboration with the Roman Catholic Church

The Executive Committee meeting in Atlanta (September 1987) expressed the hope that "the Roman Catholic Church will accept the invitation of the Central Committee to be a co-inviter with the WCC for the World Convocation on JPIC now scheduled for 1990".

While expressing regret that the Roman Catholic Church has declined the invitation to be a co-inviter, the Executive Committee welcomes the wish of the Roman Catholic Church, expressed in the letter of Johannes Cardinal Willebrands to General Secretary Emilio Castro, "to collaborate with the World Council of Churches in this important project as much as we possible can" and to do two things in particular "as important signs of collaboration":

a) appoint a Catholic representative to work closely with Dr Preman Niles and the JPIC office in Geneva;
b) nominate Catholic participants in the Preparatory Group for the World Convocation.

In the light of these developments, the Executive Committee recommended:

1. that the Preparatory Group for the World Convocation be constituted; that the Officers review the membership of the Advisory Group in the light of the mandate given to it at Kinshasa and the mandate given below, and assure the necessary competence to carry forward its task as the Preparatory Group for the World Convocation.;

2. that the mandate of the Preparatory Group be as follows:

   a) to plan the programme of and organize the World Convocation;

   b) to help in preparing a draft statement on a theological affirmation on justice, peace and the integrity of creation; to help in identifying the major threats to life in these three areas and show their inter-connectedness and in indicating to the World Convocation forms of action and acts of commitment;

   c) to advise on ways in which the conciliar process of justice, peace and the integrity of creation can be further strengthened and enhanced.

3. That the Executive Committee accept the offer of the Roman Catholic Church to appoint a Catholic JPIC staff person to work in Geneva and to appoint representatives to the Preparatory Group.

4. That the Executive Committee invite the LWF, WARC, WMC, ACC and other Christian World Communions which express an interest in collaborating to send a representative each to the Preparatory Group, and that the REOs also be asked to do the same.

5. that the following guidelines be suggested with regard to the work of the Preparatory Group:

   A. World Convocation

      i) As the Central Committee in Geneva (January 1987) said, "The 1990 World Convocation for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation is a decisive step toward fulfilling the mandate of the Sixth Assembly of the WCC in Vancouver. It marks an important stage on the road towards common and binding pronouncements and actions on the urgent questions of survival of humankind".

      ii) The World Convocation be made up of representatives from the churches, participating organizations and other advisers with a total of 550 persons (excluding stewards and staff), and conform to the WCC policies regarding balances and representation.

      iii) The purpose of the World Convocation will be to make a theological affirmation on justice, peace and the integrity of creation, and to identify the major threats to life in these three areas and show their interconnectedness, and to make and propose to the churches acts of mutual commitment in response to them.

      iv) The World Convocation be scheduled as early as possible but no later than the end of April 1990, and that the venue be decided and reported to the Hanover meeting of the Central Committee.

   B. Preparations for the World Convocation

      To work on a draft of the theological affirmation on justice, peace and the integrity of creation and the major threats to life in these areas to be sent to the churches by the end of 1988 in order to elicit their responses to the draft, to enable the churches to prepare their representatives to the Convocation, and to make acts of commitment in response to their own situations.

The Executive Committee voted unanimously to appoint Dr Marga Bührig as moderator, and Archbishop Makhulu as vice-moderator of the Preparatory Group for the World Convocation.

Dr Wilson asked how participants in the Convocation would be chosen and whether churches would be asked to appoint people. The General Secretary said that a methodology was yet to be devised in order to have a certain representativeness from the churches. A concrete proposal would be brought to the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

10. PUBLIC ISSUES

Mr Koshy introduced the discussion on public issues and referred to four situations where recent developments were of particular importance:

A. The Occupied Territories (Israeli-Palestinian conflict)

The uprising in the Occupied Territories (Gaza and the West Bank) which began in December 1987 reflects a new stage in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The situation is being carefully monitored by the CCIA and the Middle East Council of Churches; a joint statement has been issued by the heads of Christian communities in Jerusalem in solidarity with the oppressed.

Dr Poser and Dr Rubeiz reported on their recent visit to Jerusalem for a meeting of CICARWS Officers when they were able to meet representatives on both sides of the conflict. The clear impression was that the occupation must end.

Bishop Athanasios, Bishop Toth and Dr Wilson were asked to prepare a draft statement.

At a later session Dr Wilson presented the proposed statement.

In discussion it was proposed that information be shared with the Executive Committee as to the Christian Embassy and Christian Zionists.

The statement was adopted as follows:

STATEMENT ON THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

1. The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Istanbul (7-12 March 1988), received reports on the situation in the Occupied Territories. From WCC representatives who visited the area, it heard stories of the agony and suffering of the Palestinian people and of their determination to attain their legitimate rights through a generally peaceful but costly struggle. It also heard of fears and anxieties on both sides of the conflict.

2. The popular uprising in the Occupied Territories, which has entered the fourth month, reflects a new stage in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The recent events have shown clearly that the occupation cannot be prolonged. The excessive violence used by Israeli authorities to suppress the uprising deserves strong condemnation by the international community. The uprising, which is an expression of the will for national self-determination, is being treated as a law and order problem and dealt with by "force, might and beatings".

3. The Executive Committee supports the historic statement of the heads of the Christian communities of Jerusalem which said: "We stand with the suffering and the oppressed, we stand with the refugees and the deported, with the distressed and the victims of injustice, we stand with those who mourn and the bereaved, with the hungry and the poor... The recent events are also a visible expression of our people's aspirations to achieve their legal rights and the realization of their hopes".

4. There is a new opportunity and urgency for peace-making today through a comprehensive solution. Both sides have to seize the opportunity and take risks to make peace, as prolongation of the conflict will have catastrophic consequences. Mutual

recognition of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and of their rights on the basis of equality is the only guarantee for peace and security in the region.

5. The Executive Committee calls for the immediate convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East along the lines proposed by the United Nations, bringing together representatives of the state of Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organization, neighbouring Arab states and members of the UN Security Council to take urgent steps for the implementation of the rights of the Palestinians including the right of establishing a sovereign Palestinian state. The Conference should also take steps to offer peace, recognition and security to Israel in return for Israeli withdrawal from the Occupied Territories thus ensuring the genuine national security interests and mutually inter-dependent self-determination of both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

6. The Executive Committee urges the member churches

- to give very high priority to efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

- to mobilize support for the International Conference;

- to affirm solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for justice;

- to support movements and communities within Israel which are working for peace and reconciliation;

- to promote dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian people and among Jews, Muslims and Christians;

- to bring pressure upon the government of Israel, through diplomatic and other measures, for negotiations, within the framework of the International Conference.

It further calls upon the member churches

- to support the efforts of the Middle East Council of Churches and churches in the area in humanitarian programmes and in the work for justice and peace;

- to support the CICARWS appeal for emergency needs in the Occupied Territories;

- to uphold in their intercessions all those affected by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

- to continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land, remembering that "the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (James 3:18).

B. Sri Lanka

Mr Koshy referred to the statement of the Executive Committee in September 1987 and said that since then negative rather than positive influences had taken the upper hand. The Indian peace-keeping force is extremely large. In a statement on 15 October

1987 the General Secretary had expressed profound concern about the situation and appealed to all concerned "to show restraint in their actions, to seek ways to end the fighting and to renew efforts or negotiations, with a view to creating conditions to implement the many positive proposals in the Agreement".

On 9 November 1987, the General Secretary conveyed to the governments of India and Sri Lanka information received from the churches about large-scale civilian casualities and widespread suffering of people in the Jaffna peninsula. He pointed out that "the Indian forces, contrary to all public statements put out by the official media, have engaged in indiscriminate shelling and aerial attacks". The General Secretary reiterated the appeal "to seek ways to end the fighting and to renew efforts for negotiations and political settlement". Church leaders in Sri Lanka on 10 December made an appeal to the President of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of India "to take urgent steps to ensure that there is no indiscriminate killings of civilians and wanton destruction of private and public property."

CICARWS had sent representatives to assess the situation and assist the churches in relief and rehabilitation work. The humanitarian needs have considerably increased with the economy shattered and the civil administration paralysed. The WCC has agreed to support the churches in their programmes and plans are being discussed for a more active coordinating role for the NCC of Sri Lanka. The WCC maintains close contacts with the churches, and together with CCA it will arrange visits to see how best the churches can be supported in their ministry.

Ms Abayasekera said that the Tamils had become more isolated than ever: India had been an ally but was now perceived as the aggressor. She stressed that the Sri Lankan people needed support through visits from WCC and CCA, as well as through prayers.

C. Central America

The main step taken by the WCC since September 1987, when the Executive Committee had made a statement following the historic Peace Accord of August 1987 signed by the presidents of the five Central American states, was the visit to the region of a high level delegation of representatives of the WCC, the Latin American Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA in December 1987. Dr Bührig had been a member of the delegation on behalf of the WCC and she spoke about the visit. She referred to the enormous gap between what the people of the region need and the speeches by the presidents about democracy. The delegation had also been to Washington. Dr Bührig felt that the visit had been helpful to all concerned, particularly to Christians in the US in their efforts toward a better policy for Central America.

Mr Koshy spoke of developments in each of the five countries, and said that in spite of many problems, real signs of hope are to be found. There is widespread support for the Peace Accord, especially through the "Contadora" initiative, in exercising political pressure upon the governments of the Central American states to respect and work towards the accomplishment of the goals

of the accord. The European Economic Community is also committed to supporting the peace process and will provide substantial monetary grants for the holding of election of members of the Central American Parliament later in 1988. The national reconciliation commissions involving leadership of the churches provide the basis for "special signs of hope .. as a forum for dialogue among various political sectors which does not otherwise exist in most of the countries of the region".

Locally the churches are actively expressing support for the peace process, and several examples were mentioned of specific actions both by the churches locally and in response to appeals from them to churches and councils world-wide.

D. South Africa

On 24 February 1988 the Law and Order Minister of South Africa prohibited 17 anti-apartheid organisations from performing any activities according to Regulation 6A of the Public Safety Act of 1953. The General Secretary issued a statement on 28 February expressing shock and dismay at the action of the South African government in prohibiting the activities of the seventeen organisations. The statement said that "the World Council of Churches recognises that with this development the role of the churches in South Africa has become even more crucial. It reaffirms its support through prayers and solidarity actions, as the churches enter a new stage with greater demands on their pastoral and prophetic tasks."

On 29 February 1988, Archbishop Tutu and several other church leaders were arrested while attempting to march to the South African Parliament with a petition protesting the government action. They were released on their own recognizance after being told that formal charges against them for contravention of emergency regulations were being considered.

Mr Koshy said that although no action by the Executive Committee was proposed at this meeting, it was clear that there would shortly be need for supportive action by churches around the world. The Executive Committee urged that the General Secretary and PCR monitor the new developments and take appropriate action, or ask for action from the churches, in the coming weeks.

Archbishop Makhulu provided additional background information with regard to military activity and the situation due to the continuing state of emergency causing a revival of violence especially in Natal.

Dr McCloud noted that the churches were now the only groups left to openly oppose the system and it may only be a matter of time before they too are prohibited from receiving funds from outside the country. He asked to what extent the WCC was prepared to offer counsel as to how we anticipate such a situation and he urged that some strategy be devised and shared with member churches.

Mr Koshy affirmed that the forms of support for the SACC would be discussed in detail with them and said that the concern for a strategy for future action would be kept in mind.

11. ECUMENICAL DECADE - CHURCHES IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN

In response to the request of the Executive Committee at its meeting in September 1987, the sub-unit on Women in Church and Society had prepared a paper giving further details of programme plans for the Decade. The Working Group of the sub-unit, meeting in India in January 1988, had established an Ecumenical Decade Monitoring Group, whose responsibilities are to advise, to take part in evaluating the effectiveness of the total programme and to keep in touch with programme developments. Regular contacts will be made with leadership of member churches to exchange information and keep in touch with churches participating in the Decade.

At a later session Dr Nababan introduced the report of the Programme Sub-committee as follows:

The Sub-committee requested that the Executive Committee approve the following recommendations, wording and actions in response to the requests of the sub-unit on Women in Church and Society with regard to the Ecumenical Decade:

1. The Committee received with appreciation the report on the growing involvement of member churches and ecumenical organizations in the Ecumenical Decade, to begin at the Easter season of 1988. The objectives of the Ecumenical Decade - Churches in Solidarity with Women are:

   a) to enable the churches to free themselves from racism, sexism and classism, from teachings and practices that discriminate against women;

   b) to encourage the churches to take actions in solidarity with women;

   c) to empower women to challenge oppressive structures in the global community, their country and church;

   d) to give visibility to women's perspectives and actions in the work and struggle for justice, peace and the integrity of creation;

   e) to affirm, through shared leadership and decision-making, in theology and spirituality, the decisive contributions of women in churches and communities.

2. The Sub-committee recommended the following actions:

   a) That the member churches of the WCC be urged to establish Decade committees or advisory groups of women and men representing various experiences and sectors of society, lay people, church leadership as bishops/moderators, and resource persons such as representatives of secular women's movements, women involved in social action groups and movements for justice and peace, women of living faiths, and so on. A certain percentage, not exceeding 50%, should be men. Responsibilities of Decade committees would be:

      - to encourage all sectors of the church to participate in the Ecumenical Decade;

- to facilitate the identification of issues, by women and men, related to the objectives of the Decade;
- to monitor and evaluate the impact of Decade programmes on the life of the church;
- to promote the sharing of plans and to encourage joint action with other churches;
- to share with WCC and its Central Committee plans, visions, issues identified, actions taken and proposals for joint ecumenical actions in solidarity with women;

b) that the member churches present and discuss the objectives of the Ecumenical Decade - Churches in Solidarity with Women at their next appropriate synod or assembly.

3. The Sub-committee further recommended that an Ecumenical Decade Fund be established (see also report of the Finance Sub-committee p.35) to support actions in solidarity with women, corresponding to the objectives of the Ecumenical Decade. The Sub-unit on Women in Church and Society should give priority to the following:

   - local and regional initiatives and workshops for conscientization on issues such as women's full participation, women and racism, women and poverty, communicating women's issues;
   - local production of study and resource material;
   - translation into local languages of WCC Decade resource material, e.g. Decade Link, Women in a Changing World, resource kit);
   - support of women's actions, organising and networking activities;
   - exchange and exposure programmes particularly in the South to build solidarity and to exchange experiences, for example on the issues mentioned above;

The Programme Sub-committee's discussion had emphasized the following points:

- the urgency to conscientize and involve men as well as women in the Ecumenical Decade;
- the need to avoid focusing on one issue exclusively (such as the ordination of women to the priesthood);
- the fact that the Decade is a source of considerable interest and each member church should be urged to make the Decade relevant in its own specific situation;
- the proposal that the WCC Executive Committee commit itself to appointing more women sub-unit directors specifically from the Third World during the Decade.

It was noted that an Ecumenical Decade Fund would give visibility to women's struggle for a just community and facilitate their work. The symbolic value of such a fund, specifically addressing the activities of women, must not be underestimated.

In discussion, Dr McCloud said that some of the recommendations addressing member churches were in his view too specific, and that such criteria should be first applied to WCC relationships. Dr Wilson agreed in principle but felt that the matter was too urgent to wait and that some action must be taken already now.

The WCC is the reflection of its member churches; it must be faithful to what is being recommended to the churches as an indication of its commitment to this goal.

The Executive Committee adopted these recommendations.

GLOBAL YOUTH GATHERING

The idea of a large youth event has been debated in the WCC several times during the past fifteen years. Since 1984, the WCC sub-unit on Youth has been involved in discussions with other Geneva-based ecumenical organisations on the initiative of the General Secretary. In its 1986 meeting the WCC Youth Working Group produced a plan of action for the following five years for the process of rebuilding and expanding the global ecumenical youth movement. A time of consolidation was set for 1990-1991 taking the form of a global youth gathering. The basis of the ecumenical youth movement lies with local groups and their regional and global links with each other; therefore any global gathering should reflect their priorities and involve young people and their local movements in the process. A commitment to work together and to prepare a global gathering in equal partnership is now being negotiated with the other ecumenical organisations. The preparatory process and plans for the event were endorsed by the WCC Youth Working Group meeting in February 1988.

It is proposed that the Global Youth Gathering take place in the last quarter of 1991, exact dates to be decided at the first meeting of the Planning Committee in November 1988, in a third world venue.

Dr Nababan introduced the report of the Programme Sub-committee:

1. The Sub-committee received with appreciation a progress report on the effort of rebuilding the ecumenical youth movement of which the Global Gathering foreseen for 1991/92 is an important part. The report is based on the decisions taken by the Youth Working Group in February 1988.

2. The Sub-committee suggested:

   a) that in the process of preparation for the Global Gathering the main thrust of young people today and their challenge to the ecumenical movement be better clarified;

   b) that provision be made for a creative contribution by young people to the WCC world conferences and the Seventh Assembly;

   c) that young people's issues be raised out of concrete involvement in the process towards a stronger global movement;

   d) that the Global Youth Gathering should contribute to a world-wide expression of solidarity and challenge, in cooperation with other youth organizations and movements.

The Executive Committee accepted these suggestions.

13. WORLD CONFERENCE ON MISSION AND EVANGELISM

The next major WCC world conference will take place from 22 May to 1 June 1989 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, with the theme "Your Will be done - Mission in Christ's Way", and four sub-themes. Major organising responsibility is with the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME), with two liaison committees in the USA. It is foreseen that there will be about 280 voting delegates, half nominated by CWME affiliated bodies, and half chosen from nominations by member churches and others; the total attendance is estimated at some 600 persons. There will be a pre-conference youth conference, and a parallel educational conference of up to 450 persons largely from North America and the Caribbean. The programme will lay much emphasis on worship and bible study, as well as on the central theme. It is hoped to focus on plans of strategy and action for churches and related groups.

Dr Nababan introduced the report of the Programme Sub-committee as follows:

> The Sub-committee received information on the 1989 World Conference on Mission and Evangelism. Discussion centred on the main focus of the theme and the desirability of a coherent unity in the conference as a whole. The publicity pamphlet on the conference was distributed, outlining in brief compass the main conference sub-themes. A study booklet on the sub-themes, together with ten Bible studies on the main theme, is currently being printed and will shortly be available for widespread use.

The Executive Committee received the report.

14. VITAL AND COHERENT THEOLOGY

Subsequent to the discussion on this subject at the September 1987 meeting of the Executive Committee, the Programme Sub-committee

1. Took note of the following ongoing work on Vital and Coherent theology:

   a) Preparation of a list of emerging theological issues since Vancouver to be shared with the Executive Committee;

   b) Assessment of theological presuppositions of sub-unit programmes;

   c) Joint encounter within sub-units/units on issues of common concern;

   d) Preparation of a special issue of The Ecumenical Review to include the four existing papers edited for that purpose, plus two other contributions from women theologians, as well as comments addressed to these papers by several people with long ecumenical experience;

   e) Highlighting of the relationship between dogmatics and ethics in an issue of The Ecumenical Review, following a series of workshops organized by Faith and Order in cooperation with the sub-unit on Church and Society;

f) Consideration by the General Secretary and Bossey staff of proposals for a small working consultation on Vital and Coherent Theology;

g) Invitations to two women theologians representing different areas of the world to participate in this discussion in the WCC in order to go further from their perspective into the analysis and proposal for the theological work of the WCC;

h) At the forthcoming meeting in Hanover the Moderator of the Central Committee will deal with the issue of Vital and Coherent Theology and address the question of theological sign-posts for ecumenical theology.

2. The Sub-committee suggested that Commissions and Working Groups, together with staff, should be further engaged in the assessment of the theological presuppositions of sub-unit programmes and how these relate to other sub-unit work.

3. The Sub-committee asked the Officers of the WCC to provide for a half-day preliminary discussion on Vital and Coherent Theology at the beginning of the Executive Committee meeting in February 1989. This should allow for a better understanding of the theological basis of the WCC's work, its vitality and coherence, as well as the interrelatedness of sub-unit programmes and the dynamic of daily life in the Council. A small group would then prepare a document on Vital and Coherent Theology and a frame of reference for ecumenical theology.

In discussion, Dr Talbot stressed the need for a longer period of study on this subject by the Executive Committee and proposed that two days be set aside at the February 1989 meeting. It was agreed to ask the Officers to provide time for a preliminary discussion without specifying an exact length of time.

With this amendment the Executive Committee accepted the report of the Sub-committee.

WORLD CONSULTATION ON RESOURCE SHARING

A summary report on the World Consultation on Resource Sharing held in October 1987 at El Escorial, Spain, under the theme "Koinonia - Sharing Life in a World Community" was shared with members of the Executive Committee. The aim of the consultation was "to formulate an ecumenical discipline for the sharing of resources and to foster a process of commitment to such a discipline". Guidelines for Sharing strongly affirming the fundamental issues of a new value system were prepared, and if the churches adopt this discipline and implement it, the old patterns will change. The printed report is in process of preparation.

The follow-up of the consultation consists of two inter-related elements: (a) externally - with the churches, councils, agencies, etc., and (b) internally, with the WCC sub-units.

The Programme Sub-committee studied the proposed redefinition of the functions of the Office for Resource Sharing and the tasks to

be carried out in follow up of the consultation. Dr Nababan reported the recommendations of the Sub-committee as follows:

1. The Sub-committee recommends that the report on the World Consultation on Resource Sharing be received and forwarded to the Central Committee.

2. The General Secretary is asked to report to the next meeting of the Executive Committee on:

   a) the action to be taken on the El Escorial Guidelines for Sharing;

   b) the plans for implementing the Guidelines within the house;

   c) the function of the Office for Resource Sharing with regard to the above.

The Executive Committee endorsed these recommendations.

16. CENTRAL COMMITTEE 1988

A revised draft programme was considered by the Programme Sub-committee. Dr Nababan presented the report as follows.

1. The Committee accepted the revised time-table for the meeting of the Central Committee in Hanover in August 1988 with two modifications:

   a) the Women's Meeting be changed from Wednesday 17 August to Monday 15 August;

   b) the afternoon sessions begin at 15.00hrs and finish at 18.30hrs in order to provide more space for rest (if this is technically possible);

2. The "Adviser on Rules of Procedure" should have the following responsibilities during business sessions, as needed:

   a) to be familiar with the Rules of Debate as printed in the WCC Rules and summarised in the paper adopted by Central Committee in Dresden, including the difference between deliberative and business sessions;

   b) to advise and assist the Officers during plenary sessions in such a way that the Rules of Debate are followed correctly;

   c) to clarify points of order which may arise;

   d) to answer questions which may be addressed to the adviser regarding application and implementation of the rules.

3. The Adviser for the Hanover Central Committee meeting should be appointed by the Officers.

Mr Bena-Silu expressed concern at the length of the meeting and asked that attention be given to shortening Central Committee meetings in future. Mr Perkins said that this one was shorter than was usual for a meeting outside Geneva.

With regard to the appointment of an "Adviser on Rules of Procedure", Archbishop Makhulu pointed out that many participants were not sufficiently familiar with the rules and there should be more understanding of the fact that members come from different cultures and sometimes find the formal WCC procedures difficult.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

STAFFING MATTERS

Dr Talbot presented the report of the Staffing Sub-committee and the Executive Committee agreed to the following new staff appointments:

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Department of Communication

1. that Ms Maria del Carmen Andreu (Bolivia, Roman Catholic Church) be appointed as Spanish Translator (non-programme) for four years from 1 June 1988;

UNIT II

Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service

2. that Mr Matthew Stevenson (UK, United Reformed) be appointed as Secretary for Finance (non-programme) for four years from an agreed date;

3. that Ms Imalia Komalo (Indonesia, Presbyterian £GPIB]) be appointed as Refugee Resettlement Officer (non-programme) for four years from an agreed date;

Programme to Combat Racism

4. that Rev. Robert Scott (New Zealand, Anglican) be appointed as Programme Secretary for four years from an agreed date.

The Executive Committee further noted the following information about staffing:

1. Appointment by Postal Vote

It was reported that the following appointment was made by postal vote of Central Committee:

UNIT II
Programme to Combat Racism

Rev. Barney Pityana (South Africa, Anglican) as Director for four years from 1 May 1988.

2. Appointments by Officers

It is reported that the Officers at their meeting in December 1987 made the following appointments:

UNIT II
CICARWS

Rev. Richard Murigande (Burundi, Methodist Church in Burundi), formerly Secretary for African Refugees, transferred to the position of Secretary for Africa from 1 March 1988:

Rev. Myra Blyth (UK, Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland), as Secretary for Europe for four years from 1 March 1988.

18. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

A. Election/re-election of a General Secretary

Voting procedures:
At its meeting in January 1987 the Central Committee adopted procedures to elect a General Secretary (Minutes pp. 128-131), and in September 1987 the Executive Committee agreed on the voting procedures (Minutes p.27-28). Paragraph E. reads:

> ".. If the nominee (of the Search Committee) is not elected, the Central Committee will recess, and the Executive Committee will meet immediately to consider what action to propose to the Central Committee."

Staff were asked to "work out terms of reference to guide the Executive Committee in the event of an emergency situation as mentioned". Several alternatives were proposed which were considered by the Nominations Sub-committee.

Dr Talbot presented the report of the Sub-committee which had retained two out of the five alternatives proposed in the event of an emergency situation, as follows:

> i) That the Search Committee be requested to bring another nomination to the next meeting of the Central Committee;
>
> ii) That a new Search Committee be constituted by the Central Committee to bring a new nomination to the Central Committee at its next meeting.

After discussion, the Executive Committee adopted these proposals, with two votes against and one abstention.

B. Rotation of Executive Committee members

At the request of the Executive Committee in September 1987 (see Minutes p.29) a document had been prepared presenting the arguments for and against alternative courses of action with regard to a possible system of rotation of Executive Committee

members. This paper was prepared with a view to its presentation to Central Committee at its meeting in Hanover in August 1988.

The Nominations Sub-committee discussed the document. Dr Talbot presented the sub-committee's recommendation that the Executive Committee not pursue this matter further, as it does not seem to be in the best interests of the WCC. The matter will be brought to the Central Committee through the Committee on the General Secretariat in August 1988.

After some discussion, it was agreed to accept the Sub-committee's recommendation (with one vote against and three abstentions), and that a revised paper should be prepared for consideration by the Committee on the General Secretariat.

C. Vacancies on Committees, Commissions and Working Groups

1. Central and Executive Committees
The Nominations Sub-committee considered proposals for replacement of members of Central Committee which had become necessary through resignation of several members and the death of Prof. Konidaris.

In a closed session, Dr Talbot presented the names proposed for nomination to the Central Committee to fill the vacancies. The Executive Committee agreed to nominate the persons proposed, and also agreed on a nomination to replace Mr Harry Ashmall on the Executive Committee.

2. Commissions and Working Groups
Dr Talbot presented names proposed to fill vacancies on three commissions. The Executive Committee agreed to nominate the persons proposed.

D. Youth Advisers at Central Committee

In a closed session, Dr Talbot presented a recommendation from the Nominations Sub-committee that six youth advisers be invited to the Hanover meeting of Central Committee. This should be seen as an interim measure, and the General Secretary was asked to urge sub-units to increase the number of youth among their quota of Advisers normally invited to a Central Committee meeting.

Mr Voksoe hoped that these six additional advisers would help the total participation of youth and that it would be understood that stewards not be authorised to take the floor as some had done at the previous Central Committee meeting.

The Executive Committee agreed to this recommendation, with one vote against.

19. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr McCloud presented the report as follows:

1. 1987 Outcome

The Sub-committee received the preliminary results of 1987 and wishes to express its appreciation for the efforts made by the General Secretary and the staff to handle expenditures of the year so that they could remain below the authorised expenditure level.

However the Sub-committee noted with some concern that several Sub-units had overspent their budget beyond the level that had been authorised. After considering how to handle this situation the Sub-committee recommends that the deficits incurred in 1987 by the US Office, Faith & Order, and Church and Society not be picked up by an extra allocation of undesignated income, and that any part of the overrun that had not been authorised by specific decision of the General Secretary be carried forward and absorbed by those Sub-units within their authorised expenditure levels of 1988 and 1989.

The Sub-committee requested that staff develop procedures that will help preclude similar events in the future, and report to the Executive Committee what these procedures are.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation.

2. Outlook for the US Dollar

After having received a report on the medium term outlook for the US Dollar, the Sub-committee requested that staff prepare a financial projection including expenses, income and reserves through the next Assembly so that the Executive Committee can consider future budgets in the context of the major trends that will affect the WCC during that period.

3. Review of the 1988 Budget

In Atlanta last September, the Executive Committee approved the 1988 budget with a number of provisos, i.e.:

- the RSS budget be reviewed after the El Escorial meeting and brought to the Executive Committee in Istanbul for approval;

- the CWME budget be reviewed so as not to have to cover a possible shortfall with more than one third of its operating balance;

- the Unit II budgets be reviewed so as not to have to cover a possible shortfall with more than one third of both the sub-units' and the Unit's operating balances.

The Sub-committee was presented with an estimate of the actual expenditures and income anticipated for 1988. This estimate takes a number of factors into account:

- the savings on vacant staff positions and their related costs,

- the exchange rates recommended by the Investment Advisory Group (1.40 Sfr to a dollar),
- the most recent income forecasts,
- the opening balances available on the basis of the 1987 closing balances as they are now known, as well as the requested budget revisions.

On this basis, the figures presented attract the following comments:

The RSS Office's budget for 1988 has been introduced following the El Escorial meeting and according to the information brought to this Executive Committee meeting regarding the future of the programme. The budget is significantly lower since the cost of the Regional Screening Groups is now included in the CICARWS budget.

Because of a higher opening balance, CWME now needs to draw Sfr 284,879 on its operating balance, or less than the one third limit (Sfr 414,027).

Unit II now also draws less than one third of its operating balances, i.e. Sfr 767,984 against Sfr 1,121,916. The improvement is due to higher than expected opening balances and income, as well as to reductions in anticipated expenditure.

Unit III will not need to draw down on its fund balances as much as had been authorized in the approved 1988 budget. Furthermore, Unit III's overall financial support has improved regularly over the last three years to the extent that it practically does not need to draw on undesignated income any more. This improvement is very much in line with the Vancouver Assembly decision that programme contributions be secured or programmes the Central Committee agrees to continue, consequently reducing the dependency of such programmes on undesignated funds.

The overall estimated expenses will stay below budget (Sfr 39,479,810 against Sfr 41,012,200) and the closing balances at the end of 1988 will be Sfr 462,000 higher than had been foreseen last September.

The required undesignated income is reduced by approximately Sfr 500,000, for a total Sfr 6,782,808 of which Sfr 225,000 is built in over-recovery. With an anticipated undesignated income (contributions + interest) of approximately Sfr 6,030,000 in 1988, the drawdown on the WCC operating balance would be approximately Sfr 500,000 or less than one third of the available balance (Sfr 850,000).

Recommendation

Under the above conditions, the Sub-committee recommended that the Executive Committee waive the 95% restriction placed on Unit II expenses and approve the CWME and RSS Office budgets, with the understanding that all Sub-units and cost centers are not authorized to spend more than the 1988 expense estimate presented to the Sub-committee at this time.

The Executive Committee agreed to the recommendation.

4. 1988 and 1989 Income Projections

The Investment Advisory Group has indicated that the 1988 income projections should be revised with the US$ at 1.40 to the Swiss franc. Projections for the current year based on this adjustment and pledges received since the last meeting of the Executive Committee indicate that the 1988 levels of undesignated income received from member churches will be virtually equivalent to that of 1987 and only -1.6% below 1986. To accomplish this level of stability has meant significant increases by some member churches. Calculated at 1986 rates, for example, 1988 undesignated giving in original currency is up 23.7% over 1986. Special thanks are due to those member churches who have increased their undesignated contributions to make this possible. However, without new sources to offset some of the exchange loss, undesignated funds remain under great pressure and continue to decrease as a percentage of all funds received. The projected 1988 programme income indicates an actual Swiss Franc decline of 1.37% over 1987, but not for all parts of the Council: Unit I income will be down 5% over 87, but giving in original currency is up 11.2% over two years. Unit II income is projected down 2.8% over 87, but giving is up 17.6% over two years. Unit III income will show a 4.5% increase over 1987 in Swiss francs, achieved by a 15.3% increase in giving since 1986.

Considering that the exchange "basket" rendered -20.9% in 1988 over 1986, and -5.6% over 1987, major income initiatives since late 1986 have helped to offset the currency losses. Increases in heavily dollar-dependent programmes (specifically Unit II) will be the slowest to be realised, but stability of support is clear. Globally, the stability of programme contributions (-1.37% over 87) was made possible by a an overall 16.2% increase in giving in two years.

5. 1989 Preliminary Budget

The 1989 preliminary budget presented to the Sub-committee at this time is geared at defining the general assumptions that the staff should use when building up the budget that will need to be approved by the Central Committee in August.

Its purpose is essentially to check whether a reasonable budget can emerge when applying these assumptions in view both of the actual work that is required to achieve the tasks that have been set before the Council, and of the trends that affect Council income, especially in terms of the international currency situation.

The assumptions on which the preliminary budget was established are the following:

Income

- The Investment Advisory Group, at its meeting of 17 February 1988, agreed that the exchange rates to be used in 1989 should be those used in 1988, except for the US dollar, the rate of which is forecast at an average 1.35 Sfr to a dollar during 1989.

- For the purpose of the preliminary budget, it was assumed that the income received in 1989 will be the same as in 1988, the loss on the US dollar income being compensated by the increased contributions from our constituency.

- In accordance with the practice adopted since 1985, the Sub-units should not consider their fund balances to be available for spending in 1989 beyond one third of the amount as on 1 January 1989.

Expenses

- The amount calculated for staff salaries will be based on fully staffed levels, at end February 1988 actuals, increased by 3% to take into account the average value of step increases over the period, and 4% compensation for inflation. Inflation in Geneva since the last revision of staff salaries will probably have reached 4% by the time of the Central Committee in August.

- The overhead charges have already been decided by the House Committee and are generally lower than the 1988 levels.

- The cost of meetings, consultations, travel and hospitality has been estimated by the sub-unit directors on the basis of the 1988 budget with adjustments where appropriate and according to their plans.

- Other expenses are costed at the 1988 authorised budget levels, except where actual 1987 figures show sizeable variations to budget, in which cases the 1988 budget figures are adjusted.

- Shared services have been restored to the 1987 level because the balances available for use in the Communication Department in 1988 will have been exhausted in that year.

On the basis of the above assumptions, the total expenditure level of the preliminary 1989 budget is higher than that of the 1988 approved budget by over two million Swiss francs.

On the income side, only Sfr 35,000,000 can be expected with the present currency situation and projection.

After using one-third of available unrestricted fund balances and Sfr 1,000,000 from restricted fund balances, the shortfall of income vs. expenditure is approximately 1.4 million Swiss francs, or 3.5% of the total budget.

In light of these results, the Sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee authorise staff to prepare the 1989 budget on the basis of the above assumptions provided the budget is then balanced.

The Sub-committee however wishes to warn members of the Executive Committee and the staff that the financial situation of the Council will not sustain present levels of activity of the WCC in the years prior to the next Assembly. Means need to

be found to significantly reduce the use of non-recurring income in 1990 and 1991, and further, to reduce the present anticipated Sfr 5 million gap between current income and expenses.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

6. Special Funding

A. CWME World Conference
The Sub-committee on Finance reviewed a revised budget proposal for the 1989 WCC World Consultation being prepared by CWME. Originally approved in 1985 at Sfr 1,271,107, two major factors have affected cost projections upward:

a) The CWME Commission is committed to having 70% of the participants from the second and third worlds.

b) The Commission is equally committed to having 50% women participants.

This suggests that a higher rate of travel and accommodation subsidy will be required than in most meeting budgets. Considering income: 67% of the total needed for the revised expense level is pledged or in hand; the amount outstanding is Sfr 619,880. Outstanding and new askings have been reviewed, with the expectation that this amount can be raised. In view of the reasons for the increase, the size of the sum needed, the giving pattern of donors which have not yet responded to the asking, and the new askings planned, the Sub-committee on Finance recommends that the Executive Committee approve an increase in the Special Funding authorisation for this meeting to the level of Sfr 619,880 an a revised World Conference budget of Sfr 1,909,380.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

B. JPIC
As requested by the September 1989 Executive Committee, staff has prepared a preliminary budget for the 1990 World Convocation. Depending on location, present cost estimates range from Sfr 1,052,760 (full local hospitality) to Sfr 1,610,260 (no offered hospitality). The Sub-committee, in reviewing both costs and income to be solicited from the member churches, recommends that the Executive Committee re-affirm the level of Special Funding authorised by the Central Committee in 1985 in the amount of Sfr 1.2 million. Following the decision of this Executive Committee meeting regarding plans for the meeting, a final expense budget will be prepared for presentation in August. Preliminary askings will begin as soon as possible to enable donors to take this event into their expense planning between now and the Assembly. In view of the amounts of funds needed, along with on-going support of the annual budgets of the Council and support of the Canberra Assembly, the Sub-committee draws the attention of the Executive Committee to its concern about the relationship of ongoing programme activities of the Sub-units with JPIC World Convocation and Assembly preparation activities during 1990, and suggests that consideration be given to budgeting some of the Convocation

costs into sub-unit programmes for that year. The Sub-committee further draws attention to the need for offered hospitality to be sought in determining the location of the meeting.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

C. Global Youth Gathering

The Sub-committee reviewed a preliminary report on financing a 1991 Global Youth Gathering to be undertaken by the WCC in cooperation with various youth organisations as a joint effort. The Special Funding Authorisation sought would serve to cover the extra-budgetary costs of WCC participation in plans for 1990-1991. The Sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee authorise Special Funding for this purpose in the amount of Sfr 1.4 million.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

7. Travel Expenses of Central Committee members

On 10 July 1986 the Officers adopted a policy with regard to Executive Committee members' travel, that was noted by the Executive Committee in Reykjavik in September 1986; the Executive Committee adopted a similar policy for Commission and Working Group members' travel expenses at its meeting in Atlanta in September 1987. The Executive Committee requested that the staff also develop a similar policy to apply to the Central Committee.

The Sub-committee received the proposed policy statement, (see Appendix III) and recommends that it be presented to the Central Committee for adoption in Hanover in August 1988. If it is adopted, this policy would supercede the two other policy statements so that a single policy would be applicable to Central and Executive Committee members as well as to members of all Commissions and Working Groups.

With regard to the item stating that the WCC would contribute financially on a pro-rata basis if members did not stay for the full meeting, Archbishop Makhulu pleaded that this be reconsidered as most members took time from their work in order to attend WCC meetings and it was not always possible for them to remain for the whole period. Dr McCloud pointed out that the intention was to provide a guideline for those administering travel resources.

With the proviso that this item be re-phrased, the Executive Committee accepted the recommendation.

8. Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women

The Sub-committee considered the proposal to create a Fund in support of the purposes of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women. (see also report on page 22).

The Sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee:

a. establish an inter-Sub-unit WCC Ecumenical Decade for Churches in Solidarity with Women Fund in which all Sub-Units can participate;

b. affirm that Sub-units who wish to participate will do so after having developed criteria for enabling activities in line with the objectives of the Ecumenical Decade;

c. implement this action by allocating $75,000 from the Operating Balance of the WCC to this Fund with $50,000 of this initial amount being earmarked for initiatives proposed through the Sub-unit on Women in Church and Society; the remaining funds will be made available to initiatives channeled through other WCC Sub-units;

d. affirm that proposals from the Sub-unit on Women in Church and Society have priority claim on the Fund up to $75,000 annually;

e. affirm that the screening of requests should take place in an inter-sub-unit Ecumenical Decade Group (membership of which will be 50% women and 50% men) to be established by the General Secretary.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations. Ms Skuse noted that there was special significance in this vote by the Executive Committee and she was encouraged by the readiness to contribute to this Fund.

9. Seventh Assembly Preliminary Budget

In September 1987, the Executive Committee received a Preliminary budget for the Seventh Assembly. and decided to refer it to the Assembly Planning Committee as a preliminary framework for their initial planning session.

Following the first meeting of the APC and subsequent visit to Australia by Bill Perkins, the initial budget was reviewed and presented to the Finance Sub-committee.

The Sub-committee recommends that the preliminary budget (see Appendix IV) now be approved by the Executive Committee.

Dr McCloud mentioned that although there would probably be minor changes in individual items, focus was on the total amount of the budget.

In response to a question regarding team visits en route to Canberra, the General Secretary said that the APC would be considering arrangements for visits in Asia and the Pacific, but no large-scale visitation scheme was planned on the lines of the pre- Vancouver operation. He pointed out that the Executive Committee had specified rather that team visits be carried out during the whole period between assemblies so that every member church receives a minimum of one visit.

The Executive Committee approved the preliminary budget for the Seventh Assembly.

10. Allocation of Undesignated Interest

In January 1987, the Executive Committee and Central Committee agreed to procedures by which decisions can be made to allocate the interest from undesignated reserves for new, short-term, and experimental programmes that can not otherwise be funded.

Three requests for an allocation were received through the agreed procedure, all within the budget in 1988, that correspond to the above mentioned criteria:

- a new project of Renewal and Congregational Life called "Local Congregation and Ecumenical Life", consisting of an exploration on local congregations in several specific regions as to their life in the area of unity and ecumenical commitment, and of subsequent sharing of the experience. Total amount requested: Sfr 50,000.

- a new programme of Church and Society on "Christian Education on Tropical Forest Conservation". A small number of experts in afforestation will produce a package of educational materials designed a) for children on the preservation of forest and planting of trees as a faith response to God as Creator, and b) for seminarians and pastors at a theological level during a workshop to be held in Costa Rica in July. A second consultation will follow in 1989. The amount requested is for the first workshop only: Sfr 45,500.

- a new venture of the Youth Sub-unit called "Ecumenical Youth Resource Development" and that with the assistance of an intern will establish three regional resource centres in close collaboration with the regional ecumenical bodies and youth networks to develop resource exchange and communication of materials produced in youth movements around the world. The request for the 1988 budget is Sfr 50,000.

The total amount available for distribution is Sfr 160'000. The Sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee allocate the requested amounts for all three of the above programmes.

Dr McCloud said that this item would normally be on the agenda for Central Committee approval, but as it is not meeting at an appropriate time, the Executive Committee is asked to take the necessary action.

The Executive Committee approved these three allocations.

11. Finance Consultation

As was mentioned in the Preliminary Finance Report, the Sub-committee discussed and approved preliminary plans for a finance consultation to be held in mid-1989 and reported to the Moscow Central Committee. The meeting will focus on how WCC-related financial structures (member churches and agencies) participate in the present international economic system, particularly its impact on women, and will study

models for change as identified by women in the system -- North and South. Women members of the Sub-committee have agreed to serve as the core of a planning group to assist staff.

12. Requests from the Board of the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey:

The Sub-committee reviewed extracts from the minutes of the Bossey Board meeting of June 1987 as follows:

> page 3: "That the Board authorize an approach by the director to the Finance Committee of the WCC for an increase in the annual allocation from central funds to Bossey from Sfr 172,000 to Sfr 275,000."
>
> page 4: "That the Board authorize a request be made on behalf of the Board to the WCC for consideration of writing off the current deficit in the Bossey operational fund of Sfr 264,000, either by a one time grant or continued grants over a couple of years."

Following discussion of these two requests, the Sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee respond to the Bossey Board as follows:

a. That in light of the fact that the 1988 budget is balanced on the basis of the existing annual allocation from central funds to Bossey (Sfr 172,800), and a more complete set of guidelines for the allocation of undesignated funds is under consideration, the decision to modify the present annual allocation from undesignated funds to Bossey be postponed until the August meeting of the Executive Committee. At that time, the 1989 proposed budget will also be before the Committee.

b. That the Bossey staff and Board explore means to carry forward and reduce the deficit, in line with other recommendations brought to this Executive Committee regarding programmes dependent on undesignated funds (see item 1 above). Bossey should report to the August meeting of the Executive Committee what steps are planned to reduce this deficit.

The Executive Committee agreed to these two requests.

13. Banks Doing Business in South Africa

The Sub-committee received a report on the correspondence with the banks with which the WCC has relationships, following the adoption by the Executive Committee in 1987 of additional criteria to be used to determine the banks with which Council can do business. On the basis of the correspondence, the Sub-committee considers that no changes in the WCC's present banking relationships are required. However a particular method of financing not covered by the WCC 1981/1987 criteria has become a major form of financing for South Africa since the 1985 moratorium, i.e., the provision of trade finance for trade/exports to South Africa.

The situation will therefore need to be continuously monitored with the help of our network of organisations in North America and Europe.

The Sub-committee was made aware of the fact that the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society is a church loan agency founded by the WCC in which the WCC is a shareholder. While EDCS is not a commercial bank, the Sub-committee requested that a request be made to EDCS to formally state its own position regarding the WCC criteria and the extent to which its activities meet those criteria.

The Sub-committee also encouraged staff to pursue the discussion on the interpretation of our own criteria and to prepare a paper on the issue for discussion in the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

14. Minimum Tangible Sign of WCC Membership

The Sub-committee discussed elements of the kind of statement to be included in the Council's annual financial report regarding non-financial contributions to the WCC, and asked staff to continue to develop a text which a) indicates the kinds of contributions churches can and do make other than financial transfers; b) recognises by name those churches whose other contributions have offset programme costs that would have otherwise been a budget expense in a particular year as part of an intentional overall financial negotiation regarding their membership contribution to the WCC. The Sub-committee recognises that member churches may provide other support to the WCC and to one another which cannot be systematically identified or recognised in this way. While wanting to encourage such sharing as part of the life of each church, it was felt that other items could not be considered tangible signs of WCC membership *per se*.

The Sub-committee also reviewed elements of a paper to be prepared for transmittal to the Committee on the General Secretariat of Central Committee in August 1988 regarding a "minimum tangible sign" of membership in the WCC in which the financial aspects would be contextualised in a broader discussion of membership responsibilities to be continued by that Committee. The framework of the paper, based on a General Secretariat working outline prepared in response to a request by one member church, was endorsed, and suggestions were made which will be incorporated into a discussion paper for the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

15. Guidelines for the Allocation of Undesignated Income

The Sub-committee received a document outlining background for criteria and procedures in process for the allocation of undesignated income. Members of the Sub-committee will provide further comments in writing to staff to permit further development of such criteria and procedures prior to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

20. CLOSING ACTIONS

On behalf of the members of the Executive Committee and staff, Dr Talbot expressed deep gratitude to the friends in Istanbul for their warm hospitality. In particular she thanked His Eminence Chrysostomos who had acted as our host on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarch. She further expressed appreciation to Fr Alfonso and members of his parish for the hospitality they had provided in the Church of St Antoine. Thanks were also expressed to the interpreters and to those responsible for the arrangements and smooth running of the meeting.

The Committee adjourned after closing with prayer.

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Presidents:	Dr Marga Bührig	
	Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios	
	Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel	
	Most Rev. W.P. Khotso Makhulu	
	Very Rev. Dr Lois M. Wilson	
Officers:	Rev. Dr Heinz Joachim Held	(Moderator)
	His Eminence Chrysostomos, Metropolitan of Myra	(Vice-Moderator)
	Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot	(Vice-Moderator)
	Rev. Dr Emilio Castro	(General Secretary)
Members:	Ms Annathaie Abayasekera	
	Metropolitan Antonie of Transsylvania	
	Archbishop Athanasios of Beni Souef	
	Mr Bena-Silu	
	Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo	
	Ms Joyce Kaddu	
	Archbishop Kirill of Smolensk	
	Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud	
	Rt Rev. Dr Soritua A.E. Nababan	
	Rev. Meinrad Piske	
	Ms Jean Skuse	
	Dr Aaron Tolen	
	Bishop Dr Karoly Toth	
	Mr Per Voksoe	
Consultants:	Rev. Dr Avery Post	
	Bishop Sergiy of Solnechogorsk	
	Grand Protopresbyter Georges Tsetsis	
Guests:	Rev. Barney Pityana	
Staff:	Rev. Dr Samuel Amirtham	
	Rev. Dr S. Wesley Ariarajah	
	Mr Huibert van Beek	
	Ms Midge Béguin-Austin	
	Prof. Ion Bria	
	Rev. Joan Campbell	
	Mr Patrick Coïdan	
	Mr Trevor Davies	
	Mr Rob van Drimmelen	
	Rev. Dr Günther Gassmann	
	Prof. Dr Adriaan Geense	
	Rev. Anna Karin Hammar	
	Rev. Heikki Huttunen	
	Ms Eeva Kemppi	
	Mr Ninan Koshy	
	Mr Yorgo Lemopulo	

Dr James Mutambirwa
Dr Preman Niles
Ms Mercy Oduyoye
Rev. William A. Perkins
Mr Hugh Pettingell
Dr Klaus Poser
Ms Freda Rajotte
Dr Ghassan Rubeiz
Prof. Todor Sabev
Ms Ruth Sovik
Rev. Dr Eugene Stockwell
Ms Jean Stromberg

Interpreters: Mr Mstislav Voskressensky
Ms Renate Sbeghen
Ms Ursula Zierl

Minute writer: Ms Rosemary Green

Administration: Ms Brigitte Botros

APOLOGIES

Presidents: Dame R. Nita Barrow
Patriarch Ignatios IV of Antioch
and All the East

Members: Mr Harry Ashmall
Dr Janice Love

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME

Metropolitan Chrysostomos - Moderator
Metropolitan Antonie
Bishop Dr Johannes Hempel
Patriarch Ignatios IV (not present)
Ms Joyce Kaddu
Dr Janice Love (not present)
Rt Revd S.A.E. Nababan - Acting Moderator
Revd Meinrad Piske
Dr Aaron Tolen
Bishop Karoly Toth

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Revd Dr J. Oscar McCloud - Moderator
Mr Harry Ashmall (not present)
Mr Béna-Silu
Revd Puafitu Faa'alo
Metropolitan Paulos Mar Gregorios
Ms Jean Skuse
Mr Per Voksoe
Very Revd Lois Wilson

SUB-COMMITTEE ON STAFFING AND NOMINATIONS

Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot - Moderator
Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
Archbishop Athanasios
Dame R. Nita Barrow (not present)
Dr Marga Bührig
Archbishop Kirill
Archbishop W.P.K. Makhulu

APPENDIX III

POLICY WITH REGARD TO TRAVEL EXPENSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

When the WCC is responsible for the cost of members' travel to meetings of the Central Committee or for other travel undertaken at the request of the WCC, the following guidelines shall apply:

a) The WCC will be responsible only for the cost of a direct flight from the airport of departure from the person's country of residence to Geneva (or other location, if the meeting is held elsewhere) and return, without stopovers, unless a break is required because the length of the trip exceeds 18 hours.

b) Flights arranged by the WCC will be by the least expensive routing, and taking advantage of any special fares or deductions available to the WCC. Members will not be asked to take a special routing if the saving is less than Sfr. 500.00 or when the inconvenience is unreasonable, i.e.

   - when travel time each way exceeds 24 hours more than the direct routing;
   - when the alternate route requires more than two connections over and above the direct route.

c) The WCC will pay the cost of a ticket, prepaid or sent from Geneva, or the cost of a ticket purchased locally by the individual or the church, whichever is less.

d) If special routing or stopovers are required, or if the person makes his or her own arrangements, the WCC will reimburse only an amount equal to the lowest cost as indicated above.

e) Members will seek to reduce costs to the WCC whenever possible. It is understood that members who are able to combine a trip with travel to other meetings will share expenses with the other organizations so as to reduce costs to the WCC.

f) In the case of a member who does not attend the full meeting, financial assistance will be pro-rated according to the number of days attended, unless such limited attendance has been agreed in advance.

WCC authorized travel will be by economy class (air) or second class including sleeper for overnight travel (rail).

When a ticket has been purchased locally on authorization of the WCC, reimbursement will be made on presentation of an invoice or the ticket.

Other expenses necessarily incurred in the course of travel will also be reimbursed, as follows, and on the basis of invoices or receipts:

   - moderately priced second class hotels, excluding any personal charges or private telephone charges;

- local public transport or taxis as needed;

- the hiring of cars will not be reimbursed, except if prior clearance has been obtained, and then the hiring will be done directly by the WCC;

- porters' charges, required airport taxes, visas, inoculations, etc.

Personal expenses are not reimbursed.

All expense reports must include the currency and rate of exchange, with exchange receipts attached.

APPENDIX IV

SEVENTH ASSEMBLY PRELIMINARY BUDGET

	ITEM	Sfr
1.	Assembly Preparation Committee	285,000
2.	Assembly Worship (Committee, on-site expenses)	183,000
3.	Assembly Office	1,206,300
4.	Publications	1,330,000
5.	Communications (travel, accommodation, facilities)	360,060
6.	Provision for participants' subsidies	2,205,000
7.	Language Services (travel, accommodation, salaries, equipment, stewards)	1,394,141
8.	Staff/Coopted Staff (travel, accommodation)	718,650
9.	Stewards (travel, accommodation, local expenses)	547,125
10.	On-site administration, general expenses	777,500
11.	Miscellaneous on-site expenses	300,000
12.	Contingencies (13%)	1,222,224
	TOTAL PRELIMINARY BUDGET	10,529,000